
From: Little, Jamal [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=69149C51192E44EEAD4FC5F6B56D18AB-JLITTLE6]
Sent: 1/29/2018 1:51:08 PM
To: Little, Jamal [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=69149c51192e44eead4fc5f6b56d18ab-jlittle6]
Subject: Press Release: Solar Businesses Applaud Gov. Cooper's Key Role in Settlement with Duke Energy

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Raleigh, NC -- The North Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance today thanks Gov. Roy Cooper for helping to resolve a critical impasse in the implementation of landmark renewable energy legislation the N.C. General Assembly enacted last year.

"Governor Cooper played a crucial role in bringing the parties to the table to hammer out issues that could have derailed our state's renewable energy success," said NCCEBA Executive Director Chris Carmody. "This settlement will allow North Carolina companies and workers to bring dozens of projects and hundreds of megawatts of clean energy to our state's electric grid faster. The settlement also insures that Duke will impose no new barriers on solar developers finalizing investments covered by House Bill 589."

House Bill 589, co-sponsored by Reps. John Szoka and Dean Arp and signed into law last year by Gov. Cooper, was comprehensive legislation to advance North Carolina's leadership in renewable energy. Although the solar industry and Duke Energy worked closely together on the passage of the bill, a significant dispute arose after its passage about the extent to which Duke Energy could impose new technical criteria. These new criteria effectively would have eliminated a large number of renewable-energy projects well underway.

With Gov. Cooper's help and encouragement, the parties have been able to resolve their disagreements satisfactorily.

"Utility-scale solar and wind are now among the lowest-cost energy sources for electricity customers," Carmody said. "Governor Cooper's efforts to create a business-friendly environment for renewables means that North Carolinians will continue to benefit from cheap, reliable, safe energy."

About NCCEBA

NCCEBA is a 501(c)(6) trade association representing businesses in the clean energy sector, including developers, manufacturing, engineering, construction, professional and financial services, and non-energy businesses wishing to purchase clean energy in North Carolina.

For more information, please contact:
Chris Carmody, NCCEBA Executive Director
Phone: 919.608.1060
Email: Director@NCCEBA.com

Jamal Little
Press Office of the Governor
919-814-2107 (o) | 919-280-2743 (c)